



STATE OF ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

10421 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72205-2190
(501) 682-4500 • FAX: (501) 682-4535 • TDD: (800) 285-1131

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CONTACT PERSON:

Leon Cornett
OSH/CFOI Division
Arkansas Department of Labor
Phone (501) 682-4542

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arkansas had 87 workplace fatalities in 2003. These findings are from the National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries conducted by the Arkansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

The census uses multiple sources to identify, verify, and profile fatal work injuries. Key information about each workplace fatality (occupation and worker characteristics, equipment being used and circumstances of the event) is obtained by cross-referencing the source records, for example death certificates, workers' compensation records, and reports to federal and state agencies.

2003 CENSUS PROFILE

Major findings of the Arkansas Department of Labor census include:

- Transportation incidents led all other events for the tenth year in a row. In 2003 transportation accounted for 48 of the 87 fatal occupational injuries. This accounted for 55 percent of the fatal occupational injuries.
(See Table A-9)
- Assaults and violent acts were down from 7 in 2002 to 6 in 2003.
(See Table A-9)
- Contact with objects and equipment was up from 9 in 2002 to 16 in 2003.
(See Table A-9)
- Wage and salary workers accounted for 80 of the fatalities for employees status in 2003. This was about 92 percent of the workers.
(See Table A-7)

- Men accounted for 82 of the fatal occupational injuries in 2003.
(See Table A-7)
- The age group 25 to 54 years old accounted for 60 of fatally injured workers in 2003. This was up from the 55 fatalities in this age group in 2002.
(See Table A-5)
- The occupations of operators, fabricators, and laborers accounted for 38 of the fatalities in 2003. This was up from 35 for this classification in 2002.
(See Table A-5)

BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM

The 1992 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries provides a complete count of fatal work injuries. The annual Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, conducted since 1972, has been redesigned to generate worker and case characteristics of nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in addition to frequency counts and incidence rates by industry. Initial results from the 2003 survey will be released this December.

The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries program is a federal/state cooperative venture developed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics to compile a comprehensive, accurate, and timely measure of fatal work injuries that occur during the year. The census approach to compiling data on fatal work injuries was initially tested by BLS in cooperative effort with the Texas Department of Health during 1988. The study, which collected fatality data retrospectively for 1986, showed that: (1) multiple data sources, including a follow-up questionnaire, are necessary to produce an accurate count; (2) matching individual fatalities across data sources is feasible; (3) for each incident, characteristics of the worker and circumstances are commonly available from administrative reports; and (4) timeliness is important in maximizing responses for verification purposes.

The Census approach was tested again during 1990-1991 to determine whether the same kind of data could be obtained from multiple data sources on a current basis. That study, which was conducted in cooperation with the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Colorado Department of Health, was successfully concluded in May, 1991.

Thirty-two states and New York City participated in the 1991 census program. The program was expanded to include all 50 states and the District of Columbia during 1992. Funding for the annual census is shared equally between BLS and the cooperating states.

Event or Exposure (1)	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Table A-9	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total.....	102	86	76	106	68	80	87
Transportation.....	48	41	37	56	36	37	48
Highway	27	19	21	36	31	23	39
Collision between vehicles, mobile equipment	10	13	14	9	17	5	20
Non-collision	6	3	4	18	8	10	13
Aircraft accidents	7	4	5			3	
Workers struck by vehicle		5	4	9		4	
Pedestrian, non-passenger					4		4
Non-highway (farm, industrial premise)	8	10	4	6		5	4
Railway accidents	4	3		3			
Collision between railway vehicle/other vehicle	4	3					
Assaults and violent acts	15	9	6	15	4	7	6
Homicides	15	8	6	13	4	6	6
Shootings	13	8	6	12	3		3
Contact with objects or equipment	19	15	9	21	13	9	16
Struck by objects	15	10	5	15	9	4	7
Struck by falling object	14	4		10	6	3	4
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects		4		3		4	7
Falls.....	5	10	4	8	7	15	10
Fall to lower level	4	8	4	6	6	15	10
Exposure to harmful substance/environment	10	7	13	3	5	10	4
Contact with electric current	11	5	11	3	4	9	
Fire and explosions.....	5	4	6	3	3		3
Other events and exposures (2)....							

(1) Based on the 1992 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

(2) Includes the category "Bodily reaction and exertion".

Note: Totals for major categories may include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Characteristics	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Table A-7	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total.....	102	86	76	106	68	80	87
Employee status.....							
Wage and salary workers	92	71	68	94	60	70	80
Self employed (1)	10	15	8	12	8	10	7
Sex and age.....							
Men	91	78	72	97	66	77	82
Women	11	8	4	9		3	5
Both sexes.....							
Under 25 years	10	10	10	16	5	6	7
25 to 54 years	78	54	50	64	46	55	60
55 years and over	14	21	16	24	15	18	18
Race.....							
White	82	79	54	80	54	64	62
Black	17	5	12	13	8	7	15
Hispanic or Latino				9	3	5	9
Other		4	15			4	

(1) Includes paid and unpaid family workers, and may include owners of incorporated business, or members of partnerships.

Note: Totals for major categories may include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.

Occupation	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Table A-5	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number	Fatalities Number
Total.....	102	86	76	106	68	80	87
Managerial and professional specialty	8	8	6	9			3
Executive, Administrative, Managerial	3	4	4	4			
Technical sales / administrative support	13	13	7	6	6	8	9
Technicians and related support	6	5	4				
Airplane Pilots and Navigators	6	3	3				
Sales occupations	6	7	3	4	4	6	6
Service occupations	14	9	6	8		5	6
Protective services	12	5	3	5			
Firefighters	5						
Police, Sheriff and other law enforcement	6	5					
Farming, Forestry and Fishing	16	11	8	16	15	10	13
Farming occupations	3	8	3	3	4		6
Forestry and Logging occupations	6			8	5		7
Other Agricultural	7	3	4	5	8		
Precision production, craft and repair	13	15	12	20	13	18	18
Mechanics and repairers		5	3	10	7		5
Construction trades	10	8	7	9	6	14	10
Operators, Fabricators, Laborers	38	29	36	44	31	35	38
Machine operators, assemblers and inspectors	3	7	6	3		3	5
Transportation/material moving operations	30	14	22	31	22	25	29
Motor vehicle operators	27	10	18	29	22		23
Truck Drivers	25	9	16	29	18		22
Material moving equipment operators	3	4	4				6
Handlers, equipment cleaners helpers/laborer	5	8	8	10	8	6	4
Military occupations							

(1) Based on the 1990 BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Structures.

Note: Totals for major categories may include sub-categories not shown separately. Percentages may not add to totals because of rounding. Major categories that do not meet publication criteria are not shown.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries.